



Hawaii State Department of Health

Disease Investigation Branch

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Yellow Fever

(jungle fever)

What is yellow fever?

Yellow fever is a viral disease spread to humans by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. The disease occurs only in the tropical forests of South America and Africa. Although the *Aedes* mosquito is found in Hawaii, no yellow fever virus has been reported in the Hawaiian Islands. The *Aedes* mosquito and the yellow fever virus must be present together to spread the disease.

How do you get it?

You get yellow fever by being bitten by infected *Aedes* mosquitoes that inject the yellow fever virus into your body.

What are the symptoms of yellow fever?

The severity of symptoms varies but often include fever, chills, headaches, muscle aches, vomiting, and backache. In severe progressive disease, the pulse slows and weakens, the gums bleed, and the urine may contain blood. Yellowing of the skin (jaundice), nose bleeds, and bloody vomit may also occur. Up to 20% of persons with severe yellow fever die.

When do the symptoms start?

The symptoms begin 3 to 6 days after being bitten by infected *Aedes* mosquitoes.

What is the treatment for yellow fever?

The treatment for yellow fever consists mainly of bed rest, fluid /blood replacement (as needed), and supportive care.

If you get yellow fever once, can you get it again?

No. People who have had yellow fever once are protected for life.

Is there a vaccine for yellow fever?

Yes. Many countries require yellow fever vaccinations for international travelers who arrive from countries currently infected with yellow fever. Yellow fever vaccine is given only at approved vaccination centers. Your doctor or the Department of Health can tell you which countries require proof of vaccination for entry.

Under almost all circumstances, there are four groups of people who should not receive the vaccine :

- Yellow fever vaccine should **never** be given to infants under 6 months of age.
- Pregnant women.
- Persons with severe allergies to eggs.
- Persons with problems with their immune systems.

How else can I keep from getting it?

When traveling in Africa and South America, take measures to avoid mosquito bites by dressing appropriately (wear hats, long sleeves and long pants), by using mosquito nets, placing screens on windows and doors, and applying insect repellents.

For more information, see the CDC's website at http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/submenus/sub_yellow_fever.htm